

## Maritime Library and Park Headquarters at Building E

### J. Porter Shaw Maritime Library

Large  
Print

Magnifying glasses and computer terminals with large print are available. The library is open to the public by appointment only, call 415-561-7030 to schedule. The library is on the third floor, accessible by elevator.

### Park Headquarters

The administration office for San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park, and the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association are on the second floor, accessible by elevator.

### Access to Building E, Lower Fort Mason

All public spaces of Building E are accessible by ramp and elevator. Building E is located at Lower Fort Mason, about a half mile west of Hyde Street Pier. The footpath between the pier and Building E includes steep hills. The vehicle entrance to Lower Fort Mason is at Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. There is paid parking near the building with accessible spaces, or free parking in outer lots.

### Accessibility Kiosks at Two Park Locations

When direct access is not possible, a virtual tour is available through two interactive computer kiosks at the park’s visitor center and the ferryboat *Eureka*. This “virtual tour” of San Francisco’s Maritime National Historical Park includes history and a detailed photographic tour of the park’s historic vessels and the museum exhibits. No audio at this time. The same program is online (see below).

### San Francisco Maritime Online: [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

The park’s web site is accessible. Text and descriptive photo captions are compatible with audio readers, and features include: adjustable text sizes, invisible links that allow persons using screen readers to jump to content of interest, alternate text for images, and alternate text for link titles. The “Virtual Tour of San Francisco Maritime” (see above) is also on this site.

### Hyde Street Pier Store Online

[www.maritime.org/store](http://www.maritime.org/store)

## Planning Your Visit

### Arriving and Parking

A limited number of accessible parking spaces and free four-hour public spaces are located on Jefferson Street near the entrance to Hyde Street Pier, and on Beach Street in front of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse building. Both streets are flat. Van Ness Avenue, which has a gentle slope, has no accessible spaces but offers free four-hour public parking with access to the park and waterfront. Many public parking garages are nearby.

### For Information and Assistance

Visitor Center: 415-447-5000

Ticket Booth: 415-561-7151

Accessibility Coordinator: 415-556-0185

If at any time you need assistance, please do not hesitate to ask a park ranger or other National Park Service employee.

### Your suggestions are welcome

Comment cards are available at the visitor center, the ticket booth, and at the suggestion box behind the Hyde Street Pier Store. You may also contact an NPS employee.

## Planning for Future Accessibility

### Barriers on the Historic Ships

All of the park’s historic ships were built as working vessels, and their design presents many barriers. The park’s goal is to increase access for all persons. Additional modifications to the vessels are in planning to provide accessibility and preserve historic integrity.

### Audio Tour and Self Guided Tours

Descriptive audio tours specific to the park and a printed self-guided tour of the park and nearby Fisherman’s Wharf are planned.

San Francisco Maritime  
National Historical Park



## Universal Access Guide

### Special Assistance

Ranger and docent led tours can accommodate special needs, including sign language. Please contact the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000 at least three days in advance.

### Self-Guided and Ranger-Led Tours

Park brochures are available in six languages, and include a brief history and map. Interpretive panels along Hyde Street Pier, and on board the ships offer detailed stories. You can also join a scheduled ranger-led tour or program, or request special assistance. Not all tours and events are accessible. A commercial audio tour and printed guide of San Francisco’s Barbary Coast, is available in the Maritime Store, and includes stories about the ships at Hyde Street Pier, the Aquatic Park Historic District, and Maritime Museum.

## The Visitor Center and Maritime Store

### Visitor Center

All areas of the visitor center are accessible to persons using wheelchairs. The visitor center has a tactile map of the park for orientation, a staffed information desk, and an interactive universal access kiosk to tour the park. Video and multimedia are captioned. The Sailors Den library has a listening station with headphones to experience first-person oral histories and sea chanteys. The Visitor Center is located at 499 Jefferson Street (across the street from the entrance to Hyde Street Pier).

### Maritime Store

The store is accessible, and the store sells educational and gift items related to the park’s maritime mission. It is operated by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association. The Store is located at the Hyde Street Pier entrance.

# Hyde Street Pier and Historic Ships

## Hyde Street Pier

The pier is paved and flat. Visitors can read interpretive waysides, board the historic sail and steam ships, view the park’s fleet of small craft, observe work in the Small Boat Shop and Shipwright Shop, and enter the Maritime Store. The pier offers unobstructed views of San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz and Angel Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and San Francisco’s commercial fishing fleet. Hyde Street Pier is located at the junction of Hyde and Jefferson Streets.

## Ferryboat *Eureka*

*Eureka* is accessible by a gently sloped gangway. The lower (car) deck of the *Eureka* is accessible to persons using wheelchairs most of the time. During storms and extreme tides, the ferryboat may be closed to everyone. A captioned video of her engine room, and an interactive “accessibility kiosk” is located on the lower deck.

## Ship *Balclutha*

Persons using wheelchairs can usually gain access to *Balclutha*. Please use caution. The angle of *Balclutha*’s gangway never meets all ADA standards, and the degree of slope varies greatly with the tide. Accessibility updates based on the tide are available at the visitor center or ticket booth, or by calling 415-561-7151. On board, the main deck is accessible, but the other decks are not accessible by wheelchair. Below deck, the exhibit “Cargo Is King” is a total tactile experience with special audio effects, including three captioned films.

## Lumber Schooner *C.A.Thayer*

*Thayer* is not currently accessible for persons using wheelchairs. The park is restoring this vessel, and reviewing opportunities for access.

## Steam Tug *Hercules*

*Hercules* is not accessible to persons using wheelchairs, due to numerous obstructions and deck design. The tug offers many opportunities for tactile exploration and a captioned video presents a tour of the tugboat. The tug is closed to the public during extreme low and high tides. Check at the ticket booth, or call 415-561-7151 for information.

## Scow Schooner *Alma*

The *Alma*’s scheduled ranger-led waterfront sailing tours are accessible to persons using wheelchairs. The *Alma* offers all ages

an exciting experience of hauling lines and raising sail. *Alma* is not open to the public when moored to the dock.

## Paddlewheel Tug *Eppleton Hall*

The “*Eppie*” is not open to the public.

## The Ark Houseboat

The houseboat is not accessible to persons using wheelchairs. All the historic furnishings are behind ropes. No video or audio support is provided.

# Aquatic Park Historic District

## Bathhouse Building

All public spaces and restrooms in the Bathhouse Building are accessible by ramp and elevator. The Park’s museum, a senior center and various programs and special events are located within the Bathhouse Building at 900 Beach Street.

**Maritime Museum** — Temporarily closed for renovation.

**Murals and Architecture Tour** — Ranger-led tours of the WPA murals and architecture are regularly scheduled. For tour days and times, please check with the visitor center at 415-447-5000.

**San Francisco Senior Center** — Open Monday through Saturday. Call 415-775-1866 for more information.

## Recreation Areas

Recreational areas within the Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District have different levels of accessibility, detailed below:

**Swimming Beach** — Not accessible to persons using wheelchairs. The beach has a low wall with a step-down.

**Promenade and Municipal Pier** — Accessible, mostly flat, one gentle slope. Buried railroad tracks and other historical features might present challenges at specific areas.

**Gardens and Cable Car Turnaround Areas** — Accessible. Pathways range from flat to gently sloped. Park benches are located throughout this area.

**Bocce Ball Court** — Not Accessible.

## On-Going Construction

The amphitheater (waterfront bleachers) is undergoing renovation, and pathways may be temporarily blocked. Look for detour signs.

